रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) जी नहीं, उल्लिखित अवधि के दौरान नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Vacancies Lying Vacant in National Railway Users' Consultative Committee

2659. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in National Railway Users' Consultative Committee and since how long;

(b) the number of meetings of this Committee held during the last three years;

(c) what were the decisions taken in these meetings; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make this Council more active?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The National Railway Users' Consultative Council has not been in existence since July, 1980. However, the Council is in the process of reconstitution.

Rail Link Between Bombay and Mangalore Along West Coast

2660. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that about a thousand km. stretch between Bombay and Mangalore along west coast is without a rail connection;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to create rail connection along west coast in form of Konkan Railway; and

(c) what are the details of the proposal with time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) provide a direct rail link between Bombay and Mangalore meant construction of about 890 km of new railway line between Apta and Mangalore. Of this, 62 km between Apta and Roha has so far been completed and opened to traffic.

Surveys to evaluate the new line between Roha and Mangalore, which is needed to link Bombay to Mangalore, have been taken up. No investment decision can be taken, till the surveys are completed and reports examined. As such, it is not possible to indicate any time schedule, at this stage.

Telphone Connections in Bihar

2661. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone connections provided in the rural areas of Bihar as on the 31st July, 1987;

(b) what is the number of telephone connections in each district of Bihar;

(c) what is the number of telephone connections in each sub-division of Bihar; and

(d) what is the number of new telephone connections proposed to be given during the current Plan period in entire Bihar (District-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) This type of information is collected six monthly. The telephone connections provided in rural areas of Bihar as on 31-3-1987 is 12612.

(b) This information is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) This information is not readily available. The information will be supplied.